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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James Q. Reber

9 August 1957

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : System III

1. It is the opinion of the principal customer for System III that, at least as it has been employed to date, this device yields a product which "is not even of marginal intelligence value". The customer has suggested that we experiment with a modified mode of operation of the system whereby instead of searching and locking on, it would be preset to specified frequencies on which valuable take might be anticipated. The purpose of this modification would be to obtain longer and more continuous samples. [] has suggested that the take even with the present mode of operation might be valuable if System III were carried on deep penetrations. He points out that most of our experience with it has been with peripheral missions.

2. After considering the above suggestions, my conclusions are as follows:

a. We should experiment with the revised mode of operation proposed by the customer but under circumstances which minimize the operational penalty in so doing.

b. We should, if feasible, carry System III on one more relatively short range penetration mission. This together with Mission 4035 should suffice to test [] hypothesis.

c. We should not carry System III except on these experimental missions unless and until its value is clearly established.

3. Pursuant to the above, I would appreciate if the following actions were undertaken:

a. Mr. Reber should discuss this matter with the ARC and give an opportunity for major objections to be stated but should

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make clear that only the most positive evidence of the utility of System III would be sufficient to cause a change in the above policy.

b. As soon as this discussion has been held, Operations should state this policy to the Detachments and instruct them to remove System III from their aircraft as appropriate. The unit might be left in one aircraft at Detachment A and one at Detachment B until one or two peripheral missions with presettings can be flown and one more penetration carrying System III.

c. The Director of Development and Procurement should immediately confirm with [] his looking into the matter of alternate power supply for System I in order to permit removal of alternators. It would be wise to discuss this matter with Lockheed in order to determine whether there would be any objections from their point of view to the removal of System III and the alternators.

5/
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:djm

1-Addressee

2-Dep. Proj. Dir.

3-Dir of D&P

4-Dir of Ops

5-[]

6-Pro. Dir. Chrono

7-Pro. Dir. FU

8-Pro. Chrono (RI)

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